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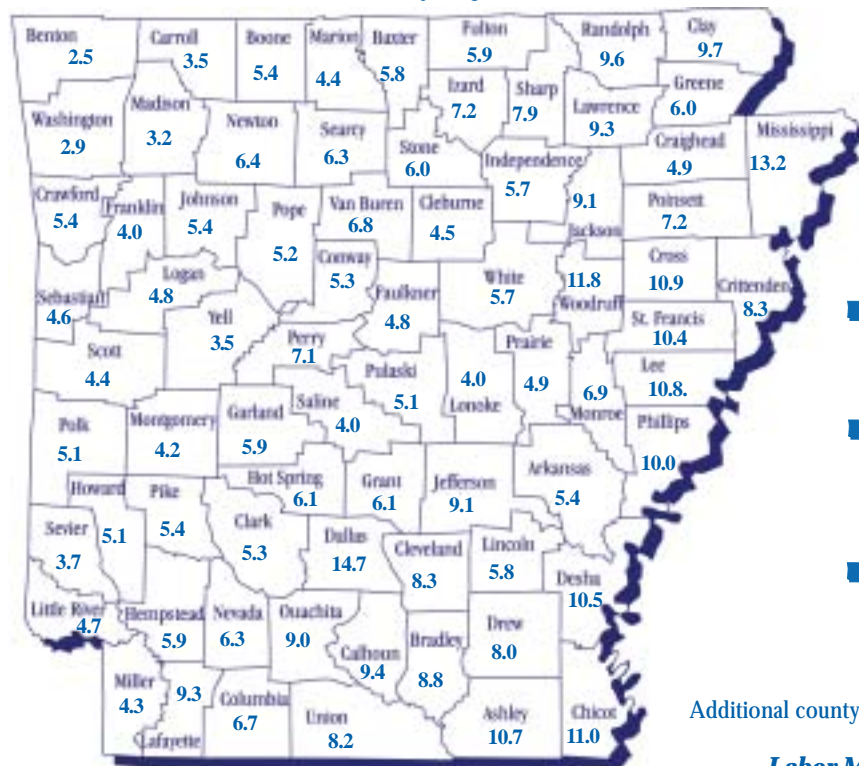
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## Arkansas Unemployment Rates by County May 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Additional county statistics are available from the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in the monthly publication,  
**Labor Market Information for Arkansas Counties.**

Mike Huckabee - Governor  
State of Arkansas

Sandra Winston - Executive Director  
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board

**Labor Market Trends** is a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Section of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. This newsletter is published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

- Forty-one of Arkansas' 75 counties recorded higher unemployment rates in May when compared with April. Twenty-four counties had lower rates, while the rates were unchanged in 10 counties.
- Benton County, with an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent in May, continued to have the lowest rate for any Arkansas county. The rate in Washington County, at 2.9 percent, was also below 3.0 percent. Seven counties had rates between 3.0 percent and 4.0 percent.
- Ten counties had unemployment rates equal to or above 10.0 percent in May. Dallas County, with 14.7 percent unemployed, has posted the highest rate for any Arkansas county for three consecutive months. Mississippi County, at 13.2 percent, had the second highest rate in May.

# Arkansas Labor Market Trends

May 2004

## Arkansas' Nonfarm Jobs Increase in May

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) was up 6,400 between April and May to total 1,155,500. Employment increased in all major sectors except **government** and **education-health services**. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest employment gain, followed by **professional-business services** and **construction**.

The **leisure and hospitality** sector added 2,800 jobs to reach a total of 92,300 in May. The increase was seasonal as entertainment, recreational, lodging facilities and food services establishments continued to add workers.

**Professional and business services** employment was up 1,300 between months. Increased hiring at firms that provide administration and support services accounted for most of the gain.

Arkansas' **construction** sector, at 50,900, rose 1,200. The largest increase was in "specialty trade contractors" (+700).

**Manufacturing** experienced growth of 700 jobs after declining 100 in April. Advances in durable goods caused the gain.

Jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** rose 600 in May to 239,700. Gains in retail trade and wholesale trade offset losses in transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Seasonal increases of 300 and 400 respectively, were noted in **financial activities** and **other services**.

Gains of 100 jobs each were noted in **natural resources-mining** and **information**.

Employment in the **government** sector totaled 201,800 in May, a decline of 1,000 since April. The loss was in both federal and state government.

The number of jobs was down 100 in the **education and health services** sector.

Continued on page 2



## Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	May 04	April 04	May 03
Total Nonfarm	1,155,500	1,149,100	1,149,000
Goods Producing	261,800	259,800	263,900
Natural Resources & Mining	6,900	6,800	6,900
Mining	3,700	3,600	3,700
Construction	50,900	49,700	51,300
Construction of Buildings	11,600	11,300	11,500
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	10,200	10,000	10,700
Specialty Trade Contractors	29,100	28,400	29,100
Manufacturing	204,000	203,300	205,700
Durable Goods	108,300	107,600	109,700
Wood Products	14,000	13,900	14,100
Primary Metals	8,300	8,100	8,200
Fabricated Metals	17,700	17,800	17,500
Machinery	14,500	14,300	14,600
Computer & Electronic Products	6,100	6,000	6,000
Electrical Equipment	12,800	12,700	13,100
Transportation Equipment	16,100	16,000	15,800
Furniture & Related Products	8,000	7,900	8,700
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,800	6,600	7,000
Nondurable Goods	95,700	95,700	96,000
Food	52,600	52,700	51,400
Paper & Printing	17,300	17,100	17,100
Plastics & Rubber Products	12,900	12,900	13,400
Service Providing	893,700	889,300	885,100
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	239,700	239,100	238,200
Wholesale Trade	44,700	44,300	44,700
Retail Trade	130,000	129,400	128,000
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	17,900	17,800	17,400
General Merchandise Stores	35,300	35,300	33,900
Department Stores	10,300	10,400	10,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	65,000	65,400	65,500
Utilities	6,700	6,700	6,700
Transportation & Warehousing	58,300	58,700	58,800
Truck Transportation	34,300	34,700	33,900
Warehousing & Storage	9,900	9,900	9,800
Information	20,000	19,900	20,100
Publishing Industries	6,300	6,300	6,100
Telecommunications	8,600	8,600	8,800
Financial Activities	51,000	50,700	50,100
Finance & Insurance	38,200	38,100	37,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,800	12,600	12,700
Professional & Business Services	104,700	103,400	104,300
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	30,500	31,000	30,700
Management of Companies	24,100	24,000	23,500
Administrative & Support Services	50,100	48,400	50,100
Employment Services	22,900	22,000	23,300
Education & Health Services	143,100	143,200	139,700
Educational Services	12,100	12,600	12,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	131,000	130,600	127,700
Ambulatory Health Care	39,800	39,600	38,600
Hospitals	42,800	42,600	41,400
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	25,500	25,500	25,200
Social Assistance	22,900	22,900	22,500
Leisure & Hospitality	92,300	89,500	90,800
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,400	8,700	10,300
Accommodation & Food Services	81,900	80,800	80,500
Accommodation Services	11,400	11,000	10,900
Food Services	70,500	69,800	69,600
Other Services	41,100	40,700	41,000
Automotive Repair	7,300	7,300	7,400
Government	201,800	202,800	200,900
Federal Government	20,900	21,300	21,000
State Government	66,800	67,600	66,200
Local Government	114,100	113,900	113,700

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Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas advanced 6,500. Service providing industries gained 8,600 jobs, while goods producing industries lost 2,100.

Employment in the **education and health services** sector rose 3,400 over the year. Health care and social assistance facilities accounted for almost all of the growth.

Jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** were up 1,500. Growth in retail trade was responsible for the increase, notably at general merchandise stores.

Compared to the previous year, employment in **leisure and hospitality** advanced 1,500. Hiring in the accommodations and food services segment accounted for most of the gain.

The number of jobs in the **financial activities** sector advanced 900 over the year. Finance and insurance companies led the growth.

**Government**, which includes federal, state and local agencies, as well as educational facilities, added 900 positions since May 2003. Two-thirds of this growth was traced to state government.

Employment in the **professional and business services** sector was up 400 over the year. The “management of companies” category accounted for the growth.

Jobholders in **other services** increased 100.

**Manufacturing** industries lost 1,700 jobs since May 2003, following the downward trend seen nationwide. Durable goods experienced a 1,400 job loss, and nondurable goods 300. The largest loss (-700) was in the furniture and related products industry.

**Construction** employment fell by 400 positions. The decline was traced to the completion of large construction projects.

Jobs in the **information** sector declined 100.

The number of **natural resources and mining** jobs remained at 6,900.

Minimum Wage Workers - Who Are They?

Current Population Survey estimates for 2003 provide these highlights on some 2.9 million minimum wage workers.

- Never-married workers, who also tend to be quite young, were more likely to earn the minimum wage or less than persons who are married.
- Among hourly-paid workers age 16 and over, a little more than 2 percent of those who had a high school diploma but had not gone to college earned the minimum or less, compared with less than 2 percent who had obtained a college degree.
- Part time workers (persons who usually work less than 35 hours per week) were much more likely than their full-time counterparts to be paid \$5.15 or less (about 7 percent versus slightly over 1 percent).

This is the second in a series of articles, taken from a paper by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and published in the Labor Review May 2004.

Consumer Price Index for the United States: May 2004

	1982-1984=100 Base					Percent Change Since:	
	May 04	April 04	May 03	April 04	May 03		
All Urban Consumers	189.1	188.0	183.5	+ 0.6	+ 3.1		
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers	184.7	183.5	179.4	+ 0.7	+ 3.0		

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries - State of Arkansas

NAICS Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 2004	April 2004	May 2003	May 2004	April 2004	May 2003	May 2004	April 2004	May 2003
Manufacturing	\$546.61	\$540.48	\$538.80	40.4	39.8	39.3	\$13.53	\$13.58	\$13.71
Durable Goods	578.51	577.41	532.62	41.8	41.6	39.6	13.84	13.88	13.45
Wood Products	588.94	620.75	552.40	42.4	43.5	42.2	13.89	14.27	13.09
Fabricated Metals	613.96	607.77	573.65	41.4	40.9	40.2	14.83	14.86	14.27
Nondurable Goods	512.31	500.09	544.60	38.9	37.8	38.9	13.17	13.23	14.00
Food	408.18	381.98	449.68	38.8	36.8	38.5	10.52	10.38	11.68

Technical Notes

“Labor Market Trends” is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month’s estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System.

All estimates are based on a first quarter 2003 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

**Monthly Business Survey of Employers** - A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in cooperation with BLS. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 4,000 business establishments are included in the Arkansas survey.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** - A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

**Current Population Survey (CPS)**- A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is col-

lected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 50,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. A total of 871 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

**Civilian Labor Force** - The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

**Employment** - An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

**Unemployment** - An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

**Unemployment Rate** - The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

**Seasonal Adjustment** - A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to such seasonal events as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - A measure of the average change in prices over time of a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, and other items that people buy for day-to-day living. The CPI shown in this publication represents the U.S. city average and is not seasonally adjusted. There is no separate consumer price index for Arkansas.

Labor Force Statistics

Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted)	May 2004	April 2004	May 2003
Civilian Labor Force	1,319,600	1,316,900	1,265,400
Employment	1,243,400	1,243,500	1,186,600
Unemployment	76,200	73,400	78,800
Rate	5.8	5.6	6.2
Arkansas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			
Civilian Labor Force	1,324,300	1,317,100	1,269,900
Employment	1,249,800	1,245,900	1,193,000
Unemployment	74,500	71,200	76,900
Rate	5.6	5.4	6.1
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers			
Civilian Labor Force	180,275	179,325	167,625
Employment	175,425	174,575	162,600
Unemployment	4,850	4,750	5,025
Rate	2.7	2.6	3.0
Fort Smith			
Civilian Labor Force	102,650	102,100	98,800
Employment	97,625	97,200	93,425
Unemployment	5,025	4,900	5,375
Rate	4.9	4.8	5.5
Jonesboro			
Civilian Labor Force	46,350	46,225	44,725
Employment	44,050	43,925	42,575
Unemployment	2,300	2,300	2,150
Rate	4.9	5.0	4.8
Little Rock-North Little Rock			
Civilian Labor Force	324,625	323,625	309,925
Employment	309,125	308,875	294,525
Unemployment	15,500	14,750	15,400
Rate	4.8	4.6	5.0
Pine Bluff			
Civilian Labor Force	38,925	38,450	36,175
Employment	35,375	35,200	32,775
Unemployment	3,550	3,250	3,400
Rate	9.1	8.5	9.4
United States Unemployment Rates:			
Seasonally Adjusted	5.6	5.6	6.1
Not Seasonally Adjusted	5.3	5.4	5.8

Note: MSA data are not seasonally adjusted.





## Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

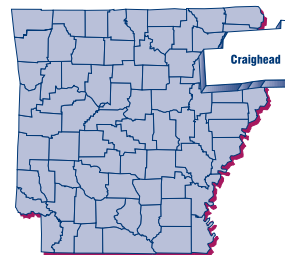
North American Industry Classification	May 04	April 04	May 03
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>36,300</b>	<b>35,600</b>
Goods Producing	8,100	8,100	7,800
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>6,900</b>
Nondurable Goods	4,500	4,500	4,400
Service Providing	28,400	28,200	27,800
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,400</b>
Wholesale Trade	1,000	1,000	1,000
Retail Trade	4,000	4,000	4,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	1,400	1,300	1,300
<b>Information</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,300</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,500</b>
Federal Government	1,900	1,800	1,700
State Government	3,300	3,300	3,300
Local Government	3,700	3,600	3,500

### Nonfarm Employment Is Up

The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs for the Pine Bluff MSA had small gains from April to May. Government posted 200 new jobs. Small increases in the trade, transportation, and utilities industry were offset by losses in the education-health services industry.

May 2003 to May 2004 showed significant gains in total nonfarm payroll jobs. One thousand additional jobs were posted in four major industries combined. The government sector was responsible for the largest growth (+400 jobs), followed by manufacturing (+300), education-health services (+200), and professional-business services (+100).

## Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Total Unchanged in May

The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs stayed the same in the Jonesboro MSA between April and May. A decrease in the government group was offset by an increase in the education and health services group. The remaining industry totals didn't change. Generally the Jonesboro MSA employment numbers have held fairly constant during the past six months.

When looking at the yearly employment picture for the MSA, totals decreased for all groups except four. Losses resulted in a reduction of 1,100 jobs (2.7 percent).

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	May 04	April 04	May 03
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>42,100</b>
Construction & Mining	1,900	1,900	2,100
Manufacturing	7,700	7,700	7,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,700	7,700	7,900
Information	700	700	700
Financial Activities	1,500	1,500	1,500
Professional & Business Services	3,100	3,100	3,400
Education & Health Services	6,600	6,500	6,700
Leisure & Hospitality	3,700	3,700	3,900
Other Services	1,500	1,500	1,500
Government	6,600	6,700	6,600

## Fayetteville - Springdale - Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	May 04	April 04	May 03
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>176,200</b>	<b>175,400</b>	<b>171,300</b>
Goods Producing	38,100	37,800	37,700
<b>Natural Resources, Mining, &amp; Construction</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,800</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>29,900</b>	<b>29,800</b>	<b>29,900</b>
Durable Goods	12,600	12,500	12,700
Fabricated Metals	3,500	3,600	3,600
Nondurable Goods	17,300	17,300	17,200
Food	12,100	12,200	12,200
Service Providing	138,100	137,600	133,600
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>43,300</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>41,800</b>
Wholesale Trade	8,200	8,000	7,300
Retail Trade	18,000	17,900	17,300
General Merchandise Stores	5,000	5,000	5,000
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	17,100	17,300	17,200
<b>Information</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,400</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>27,400</b>	<b>27,300</b>	<b>27,400</b>
Employment Services	3,300	3,200	3,700
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>16,300</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>15,600</b>
Hospitals	4,700	4,700	4,600
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>13,900</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>21,500</b>
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	1,800
State Government	8,100	8,500	7,300
Local Government	12,800	12,800	12,400

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Total 176,200 in May

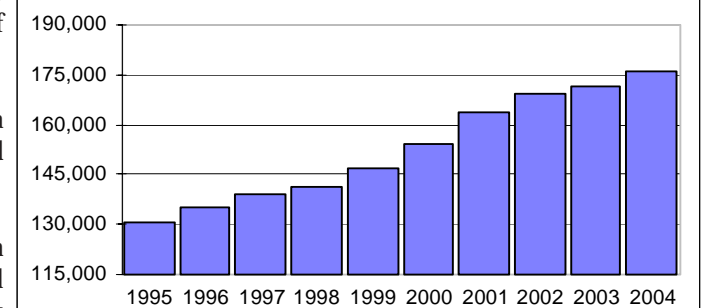
Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA rose 800 to total 176,200 in May. Advances in eight major sectors were partly offset by a decrease of 400 in government.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs added 4,900, for a growth rate of 2.9 percent. Eight major sectors accounted for the growth.

Yearly increases ranged from 100 in both information and other services to 1,500 in trade, transportation, and utilities. The gain in trade, transportation, and utilities was posted in trade. Wholesale trade gained 900 and retail trade added 700.

Since May 1995, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 45,300 from 130,900. This is a gain of 35 percent in nine years.

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA  
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
May: 1995 - 2004



Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

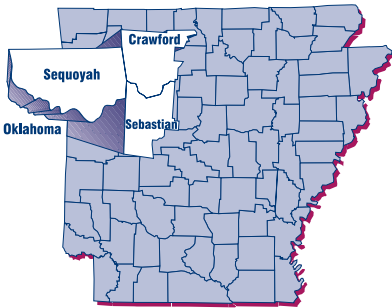
	May 04	April 04	May 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$562.72	\$544.38	\$540.36
Average Weekly Hours	41.9	40.9	39.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.43	\$13.31	\$13.82



## Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	May 04	April 04	May 03
Total Nonfarm	99,700	99,500	100,100
Goods Producing	31,400	31,200	30,400
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>25,000</b>
Durable Goods	14,900	14,700	14,600
Electrical Equipment	6,000	6,000	5,900
Nondurable Goods	10,800	10,800	10,400
Food	7,400	7,400	6,800
Service Providing	68,300	68,300	69,700
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>19,700</b>
Wholesale Trade	3,300	3,200	3,200
Retail Trade	11,000	11,000	11,000
General Merchandise Stores	3,500	3,500	3,400
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	5,700	5,700	5,500
Truck Transportation	4,200	4,200	4,000
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>9,800</b>
Employment Services	3,700	3,700	4,500
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>13,000</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	12,300	12,300	12,500
Hospitals	4,400	4,400	4,800
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>7,300</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>
Federal Government	1,200	1,200	1,300
State Government	2,000	2,000	2,000
Local Government	8,500	8,500	8,500



### Jobs Increase Slightly in May

Nonfarm payroll jobs increased 200 in the Fort Smith MSA between April and May 2004, with total nonfarm payroll jobs now at 99,700. Manufacturing jobs rose 200, while construction, trade-transportation-utilities, and education-health services increased 100, each. Declines of 100 each were recorded in three major sectors: financial activities, natural resources-mining, and professional-business services.

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs in the Fort Smith MSA decreased 400 between May 2003 and May 2004. Professional and business services lost 1,000 jobs, with the employment services sub-sector accounting for 800 of the total drop. Education and health services recorded a loss of 400 jobs, all under the hospitals category. Other sectors recording job losses were: information -200, financial activities -100, and government -100.

Year-to-year employment gains were posted in four major groups. The manufacturing increase of 700 was the largest for the period. Construction and trade-transportation-utilities each added 300 jobs. The leisure and hospitality sector recorded growth of 100 for the year.

## Hours & Earnings of Production Workers

### Manufacturing Industries

	May 04	April 04	May 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$570.88	\$536.18	\$564.57
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	39.6	40.5
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.56	\$13.54	\$13.94

## Little Rock - North Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	May 04	April 04	May 03
Total Nonfarm	316,100	316,600	318,500
Goods Producing	41,100	40,800	42,100
<b>Natural Resources, Mining, &amp; Construction</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>17,300</b>
Special Trade Contractors	9,600	9,500	9,900
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>24,800</b>
Durable Goods	14,700	14,700	15,500
Fabricated Metals	3,000	3,000	3,100
Computer & Electronic Equipment	2,300	2,300	2,300
Transportation Equipment	3,300	3,300	3,400
Nondurable Goods	9,200	9,200	9,300
Service Providing	275,000	275,800	276,400
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>65,600</b>	<b>65,500</b>	<b>66,500</b>
Wholesale Trade	15,700	15,700	15,800
Retail Trade	34,000	33,900	33,900
Food & Beverage Stores	4,600	4,500	4,600
General Merchandise Stores	8,200	8,300	7,600
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	15,900	15,900	16,800
<b>Information</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,400</b>
Telecommunications	4,900	4,900	5,200
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>19,300</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>39,200</b>	<b>40,100</b>
Computer Systems	4,800	4,800	5,200
Employment Services	8,800	8,600	8,700
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>40,900</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>40,600</b>
Hospitals	12,800	12,800	12,700
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>25,200</b>
Food Services	18,900	18,600	19,200
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,200</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>63,700</b>	<b>64,300</b>	<b>63,100</b>
Federal Government	9,200	9,300	9,400
State Government	29,200	29,600	28,700
Local Government	25,300	25,400	25,000

### Nonfarm Count Declines in May

The nonfarm sector lost 500 jobs in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA according to preliminary data for May 2004. A large part of the decrease was due to reductions in the government segment. Each of the three entities (state, local and federal) contributed to the downturn, but the bulk of the drop was in state government (-600). State jobs in the education sector were fewer due to slowed demand at the close of the spring school term.

Smaller reductions occurred in professional-business services (-200), financial activities (-100), and education-health services (-100). These cutbacks along with those in government overshadowed a combined gain of 500 in natural resources-construction, trade-transportation-utilities, and other services.

Compared with the nonfarm count of May 2003, jobs have dropped 2,400. Three major groups share much of the posted loss: professional-business services, manufacturing, and trade-transportation-utilities. These groups represented 2,900 jobs.

## Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

### Manufacturing Industries

### Durable Goods Industries

	May 04	April 04	May 03	May 04	April 04	May 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$624.26	\$606.83	\$570.77	\$661.12	\$641.10	\$581.38
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	43.5	41.3	45.5	45.5	41.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.22	\$13.95	\$13.82	\$14.53	\$14.09	\$14.18